(*b*), (*d*) *and* (*e*) Voluntary organisations are encouraged by seeking their participation during discussions on major environmental issues, before policy decisions are taken.

Financial assistance is currently being provided for the following programmes.

—for organising Eco-clubs in schools.

—for organising workshops, symposia, seminars under Environmental Awareness Programme.

—for conducting research in different areas of environment.

(c) No such complaint has been received.

Implementation of Environmental Audit Scheme

1020. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it a fact that the environmental audit scheme which was launched last year has not been implemented in letter and spirit so far ;

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures Government propose to take in this behalf and enforce the mandatory environmental audit for industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH). (a) Till December 31st, 1993, two thousand nine hundred and ninety five environmental statements have been received by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards from various industries in different States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The measures taken/proposed for effective implementation of the requirement for preparation of an environmental statement include the following :

(i) A gazette notification making environmental statement mandatory has been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per this notification all the units who seek consent either under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 or authorisation under the hazardous wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 are required to submit environmental statements for the financial year ending 31st March on or before 30th September every year begining 1993 to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

(ii) Guidelines for carrying out environmental statements have been prepared.

(iii) Sector specific modular environmental audit reports in respect of heavily polluting sectors have been prepared to serve as a model to the user industry.

(iv) Training programme /workshops have been organised for personnel in Central and State Pollution Control Boards and in industries.

(v) A project has been sponsored to IIT, Bombay to develop soft ware for computerisation of the data in environmental statements for inter-firm comparison and for better waste management practices and decision making.

Release of funds for cleaning rivers

1021. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved a huge amount for cleaning 17 rivers in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects that Government propose to undertake and whether the recently signed agreement with the Austrian Government pertains to cleaning of these rivers ; and

(c) If so, what are the projects proposed to be jointly undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) The Government has approved in principal the Approach Paper on the National River Action Plan for Pollution abatement works in the identified polluted stretches of the